

SC52-14 Rev.1



Progress report on the implementation of the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention

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Actions requested



Standing Committee is invited to:

- note the progress of the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention;
- approve the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee, and advise on the best response to the request for involvement by the Global Wastewater Initiative;
- endorse the proposed timeframe for implementation; and
- adopt the proposed MoU between UN-Habitat and Ramsar which is annexed to document SC52-16.



Background



- Resolution XII.10 *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention* formalized a framework
- Resolution XII.10 states that: “*This accreditation would encourage cities that are close to and depend on wetlands, primarily Wetlands of International Importance, but also other wetlands, to establish a positive relationship with these wetlands*”



Background



Resolution XII-10 specifically mandates the following steps:

- Establish a voluntary Wetland City accreditation system, and invite CPs to propose for accreditation as a Wetland City those cities in their territory which are located close to Ramsar Sites and/or other significant wetlands that satisfy some criteria.
- Encourage CPs, local stakeholders, local governments, NGOs and other partners to disseminate information on the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention and maintain a branding.
- Instructs the Ramsar Secretariat to develop a global online network of cities which have obtained the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.



Consideration and timings for the implementation of the Wetland City Accreditation



- SC52 is invited to confirm the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee according to the options provided in paragraph 16 of the Framework: “It is proposed that the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee shall be chosen by the Standing Committee from the following:
- A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), who shall act as Chair of the Committee: ***Name to be provided***
- A representative of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI): ***Kirsty Robinson, Professional Officer***
- A representative of the Ramsar Convention’s International Organization Partners: ***Name to be provided***



Consideration and timings for the implementation of the Wetland City Accreditation



A Standing Committee member representative from each of the six Ramsar regions, selected by the regions:

- Africa: ***Tunisia***
- Asia: ***RO Korea***
- Europe: ***Azerbaijan***
- Latin America and the Caribbean: ***Name to be provided***
- North America: ***Name to be provided***
- Oceania: ***Australia***

One representative of the Global Waste Water Initiative (GW²I) of UNEP:
Birguy Lamizana



Consideration and timings for the implementation of the Wetland City Accreditation

One representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP): ***Name to be provided***

A representative of the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Ramsar Convention; ***Chair of CEPA Oversight Panel***

The Ramsar Secretary General or his/her designated representative: ***Ramsar Secretary General***

The Ramsar Senior Advisor for the concerned region (rapporteur); and

The coordinator of the Regional Initiative concerned, if any.”



UNEP/GW2I



Requested to be involved as a member of the Independent Advisory Committee.

GW2I would like to apply its expertise on the assessment of criteria related to *“appropriate standards regarding water quality, sanitation and management in the entire area under the city’s jurisdiction”*.

A letter to this effect from the Director of UNEP’s Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)

Standing Committee is invited to consider this request and advise on the appropriate response.



Timeframe for the implementation of RES XII-10

2016-2018

- ⇒ **February 2016:** Secretariat develops a draft MoU with UN-Habitat for approval by SC52 and signature; Secretariat develops drafts of the Wetland City Accreditation forms
- ⇒ **June 2016:** SC52 approves the proposed membership of the Independent Advisory Committee from names submitted by the Secretariat.
- ⇒ **December 2016:** IAC develops the forms for submitting proposals on Wetland Cities, prepares an outline of the process for accreditation, distributes details of the process and sends out the prepared forms to CPs through the Secretariat
- ⇒ **January 2017:** Secretariat issues a call for applications
- ⇒ **January-Sept 2017:** Secretariat receives applications from Contracting Parties
- ⇒ **30 September 2017:** IAC receives all applications
- ⇒ **December 2017:** IAC reviews the applications and decides whether to accredit proposed cities, prior to submission to SC53.
- ⇒ **January-February 2018:** SC53 reviews the report of the IAC listing those cities approved for accreditation and transmits it to the COPs
- ⇒ **October 2018:** Presentation of newly accredited cities at COP13.



Timeframe for the implementation of RES XII-10

2019-2021



- ⇒ **2019: SC56** to approve the six-year draft review form.
- ⇒ **February-March 2019:** The Secretariat issues a call for applications.
- ⇒ **March-September 2019:** Secretariat receives applications from Contracting Parties.
- ⇒ **30 September 2019:** Independent Advisory Committee receives all applications
- ⇒ **December 2019:** Independent Advisory Committee reviews the applications and decides whether to accredit proposed cities, prior to submission to SC58.
- ⇒ **January-February 2021:** SC58 reviews the report of the Independent Advisory Committee listing those cities approved for accreditation and transmits it to the Conference of the Parties.
- ⇒ **June-October 2021:** Presentation of new accredited cities at COP14.



On-going work:

Draft Accreditation Form



A first draft of the Accreditation form was prepared by the Secretariat and we got comments from ICLEI, WWF, Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia and UN-Habitat.

Once the Independent Advisory Committee is approved, the Secretariat will submit it to them in order to get an advanced version to be shared with CPs for their comments and inputs.

FAQs: 3 per month (one in a written format) and calls (RCEA-every 25 days).



IUCN CONGRESS 2016, HAWAII



Date	Event type	Subject or name	Organizers/ Partners	IUCN Event No	Room
3 Sept. 0830-1030	Knowledge Café (2 hours)	The Ramsar world wetland city scheme: inspiring local communities to value wetlands	WCPA, ORO, NZ, Ramsar	10355	311-7

Working title: The new World Wetland City scheme: recognizing the many benefits of urban wetlands (Paul O & Ms. Helen Sharpe from Biodiversity and Coastal Strategy, New Zealand)



PREPARATION OF PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR RAMSAR WETLAND CITY ACCREDITATION SCHEME



- Create a Promotion and Communication Plan to accompany the Wetland City Accreditation scheme, outlining:
- Recommended initiatives designed to activate CPs, local stakeholders, local governments, NGOs and other partners ; to include:
 - an overall timing plan integrating key decision-making milestones and existing events to make use of/ build on
 - any other relevant promotional factors
 - list of specific communication channels and deliverables (e.g. possible launch event, possible celebrity spokesperson(s), brochures, posters, type of web presence, e-newsletter, etc.)
- Develop proposals for a Wetland City Accreditation logo and how this should integrate with the Ramsar brand



SC51 Report and Decisions, Para 72 is clarifying that no core budget was allocated to activities under this Resolution.



Negotiations with ICLEI, UN-Habitat and UNEP/GPA/ GW2I were all made through:

- Skype and Webex,
- Additional activities during the Secretariat official missions or missions funded by UNEP (Steering committee of GW2I).





Paul when
Africa will draft
a Resolution
on Wetlands &
Indigenous
People

I think that the Culture
Network needs to plan it. I
will talk to Mariam

InchAlla

Thank you!